

NOTE OF THE TWENTIETH MEETING OF THE LEARNING DISABILITY IMPLEMENTATION ADVISORY GROUP HELD ON 14TH JULY 2005 AT THE MEDIA RESOURCE CENTRE, LLANDRINDOD WELLS.

PRESENT:

David Felce – Co-chair
Glayne Walker – Co-Chair (supported by Yvonne Hedges)

Members

David Allen
Steve Beyer
Jim Crowe
Evan Davies
David Edwards (supported by Peter Wakeford)
Bethan Evans
Margaret Gregory
Helen Matthews
Liz Neal
Sean O'Reilly
Louise Price (supported by Yvonne Herne)
Brickchand Ramruttun
Stephen Wade
Bryan Williams
John Williams (attending for Peter Watkins)

Assembly Officials

John Carter
Alyson Collins

Others

Paul Martin - AWPf
Lis Walters – Communication Officer, SCOVO

1. Welcome & apologies

1.1 John Williams, attending for Peter Watkins, was welcomed to his first meeting of the Group. Members were advised that from the next LDAIG meeting John would be taking over from Peter as the representative of Clinical Psychology Services (Learning Disabilities Speciality).

1.2 Apologies were received from Ian Ferris, Mike Kerr, Chris Maggs and Peter Watkins (members) and Mick Fisher and Pat Vogt (Assembly officials).

2. Consideration of the sub-group paper on Continuing Healthcare (David Allen).

2.1 David Allen introduced the paper. Members were given the opportunity to raise queries on the paper and a discussion followed. The thanks of the Group were passed on to sub group for their work on the paper.

Action :

- It was agreed that the paper should be developed as good practice guidance with any relevant standards for commissioners added. Members were asked to send any comments they had on the paper to David Allen. (Members/sub-group 2).

3. A presentation on people with a learning disability accessing Mental Health Services (Helen Matthews).

3.1 Following the presentation Members were given the opportunity to ask questions and a discussion followed. The Group thanked Helen for her helpful and clear presentation.

Action : It was agreed that -

- to inform the present review of the National Service Framework for Adult Mental Health the Group should write to the Minister for Health & Social Services and convey its concerns about the difficulties people with a learning disability have in accessing Mental Health Services (David Felce/Helen Matthews).
- a service model/approach guidance on how Learning Disability and Mental Health Services can interface should be developed (Sub-group 2).

4. Briefing paper from the National Public Health Service (NPHS)

4.1 John Carter introduced the paper drawn up by Stuart Bartley on 'Potential NPHS Input into the Development of Learning Disability Services'. He advised that the Assembly had a Service Level Agreement with the NPHS and could contract them to undertake work including work on learning disabilities. He added that the group may wish to consider inviting a representative from the NPHS to join the Group. After a discussion it was agreed by all those present that it would be beneficial for the LDIAG to include a representative from the NPHS. Members were advised that: the NPHS was holding a conference in the Autumn when one of the areas for discussion would be 'Out of Area Placements'; and that Mencap was planning a conference with the NPHS and that Health Checks for people with a learning disability would be one of the items for discussion.

Action :

- To write to Stuart Bartley, NPHS inviting him to nominate someone from the NPHS to become a member of the LDIAG (Secretariat).

5. Consideration of draft amended Terms of Reference and potential future work areas

5.1 John Carter introduced the two papers and a discussion followed. The Terms of Reference, as drafted, were agreed by the Group. On the future work programme it was agreed that 4 sub groups should be set up to take forward the main areas of work identified, as attached. The main work of sub-groups 2,3 & 4 to be on developing good practice guidance with sub-group 1 having the strategic policy overview. It was agreed that the new sub-groups would replace the existing LDIAG sub-groups except for the Communication sub-group which would continue. It was also agreed that the work of the existing advocacy sub-group should be fully absorbed into sub-group 1. A leader was appointed for each of the Groups with responsibility for arranging sub-group meetings. It was acknowledged that as the Assembly's agenda was continually developing the Group's future work plan would need to change to reflect this. John Carter advised that the Assembly would meet the reasonable costs of sub-group meetings and travel and subsistence but was unable to provide secretarial support.

Action :

- Revised Terms of Reference to be sent to the Minister for his agreement once the Co-chairs meeting with the Minister on the Policy Statement has been held (David Felce).
- Each sub-group to determine its own title, set objectives and work priorities and consider whether any non LDIAG members should be co-opted onto the sub-group to assist with the work (Sub-groups).
- Each sub-group to report back on progress at the October 2005 meeting (Sub-groups)
- For a report back from sub-groups to become a standard agenda item for all meetings after October 2005 (Secretariat)

6. Minutes of the last meeting.

6.1 The draft minutes of the meeting were agreed as a true and accurate record.

7. Action Log and Matters arising

7.1 Policy Statement – David Felce advised that the paper had been

renamed 'Statement on Policy and Practice for Adults with a Learning Disability'.

7.2 'Improving the Life Chances of Disabled People' – Liz Neal advised that she had not yet received a response to her letter of 6th June to Jane Hutt AM sent on behalf of the Group.

Action :

- Liz Neal to chase up

7.3 Communication sub-group – Jim Crowe advised that the first meeting of the Communication sub group had been held and that Terms of Reference and a work plan had been agreed.

Action :

- Sub-group meeting notes, terms of reference and work plan to be circulated to members (Sub-group)

7.4 Employment & Education – Steve Beyer advised that the report from the Valuing People sub-group on Employment had not yet been issued. Liz Neal advised that the Wales Association of Supported Employment Agencies had written to Jane Davidson, Minister for Lifelong Learning setting out their concerns over ELWA's change of policy on funding outcomes for the SkillBuild element of Work Based Learning and asking if they could meet her to discuss.

7.5 Transition Planning – Stephen Wade said that the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) had issued 'Information for people with learning difficulties, their families and supporters at transition'

Action :

- Members to be sent the hyperlink to the above document and to the National Patient Safety Agency document on 'Safeguarding People with a Learning Disability within the NHS'. (Stephen Wade).

8. Any Other Business

8.1 Autism Strategy – In response to a query John Carter said that a number of LDIAG members had been invited to a pre-consultation meeting of stakeholders held on 1 July. He added that the Group would have the opportunity to comment on the consultation document which was likely to be published in the Autumn.

Action :

- Members to be sent the Autism Strategy consultation document in due course (Secretariat).

8.2 Resettlement – To discuss under any other business at a future meeting.

Action :

- Jim Crowe agreed to find out about local concerns over the Bryn y Neuadd Resettlement programme and report back at the September 2005 meeting (Jim Crowe).

9. Date of Next Meeting

9.1 Members noted that the twenty-first meeting of the Implementation Advisory Group would take place on Thursday, 15th September 2005 at Rhayader Leisure Centre starting at 10.15am.

Alyson Collins
Secretariat to the Learning Disability
Implementation Advisory Group